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Letter dated 23 June 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and to transmit a letter dated 14 June 2017 from Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, attaching the communiqué of the 691st meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held on 12 June 2017 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

Letter dated 14 June 2017 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you to share with you the communiqué of the 691st meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (see S/2017/531, annex), regarding our joint efforts in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), for transmission to the United Nations Security Council. As you will recall, Security Council resolution 2296 (2016) and your letter of 28 October 2016 to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/915) requested that a joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID should be undertaken, in close consultation with the Government of the Sudan, to provide detailed recommendations to the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council on the Mission's priorities, its configuration and, if necessary, propose a further revision of the benchmarks to reflect the realities in Darfur.

As you are aware, the joint African Union-United Nations strategic review mission was subsequently undertaken from 5 to 17 March 2017, by officials from both the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat. The strategic review mission reported that the security situation in Darfur had improved. In this light, it reported on the current fighting trends between the Government of the Sudan and armed groups and their impact on security. It also reported on the militia groups and proliferation of weapons in Darfur while at the same time elaborating on the ongoing intercommunal violence. The joint report also proposed the reconfiguration of UNAMID in order to refocus the Mission's mandate.

Subsequent to our publishing of the report and its recommendations, the Peace and Security Council met on 12 June 2017 to consider our joint strategic review report. To that end, Council concurred with our report that there was improvement on the general security situation in Darfur. However, given the fact that there are still concerns over the security and humanitarian situations on the ground, Council decided that the mission should maintain its mandate of protecting civilians, assisting humanitarian delivery and mediating between the Government of the Sudan and armed movements.

Given the foregoing, I wish to forward to you, herewith attached, the joint review report and the communiqué of the 691st meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held on 12 June 2017, by which the Peace and Security Council adopted our joint review report on UNAMID and renewed the UNAMID mandate for one (1) year. As you will note, Council also requested the Security Council to renew the mandate of UNAMID by one (1) year. Consequently, I am looking forward to receiving a positive report on the United Nations Security Council resolution on this matter.

(*Signed*) Moussa **Faki Mahamat**